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Poet Chants as Clash Erupts at Trial of '7'

CHICAGO, Dec. 12 (AP)—A shouting match between the judge and a defense lawyer was interrupted today by the chanting of poet Allen Ginsberg in the trial stemming from disorders during the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

Ginsberg was a witness for the seven men charged with inciting rioting during the convention.

He gave a poetry reading and frequently punctuated his testimony with the chant "Om" which he said he used to calm crowds during the disorders of convention week.

"Om" is a spiritual refrain from India that, drawn out for several seconds, has a soothing effect, Ginsberg has said.

The argument between Judge Julius J. Hoffman of U.S. District Court and defense lawyer William M. Kunstler occurred after the conclusion of Ginsberg's direct testimony.

U.S. Attorney Thomas A. Foran asked for an early recess prior to cross-examination

of Ginsberg. Kunstler said a delay would cause the loss of two defense witnesses who could not remain in Chicago until Monday.

"Last week," Kunstler shouted, "when the defense asked for a five-minute recess, it was denied!"

"Don't shout," Judge Hoffman replied. "I will not sit here and allow you to be disrespectful to this court."

"The jury should know that the defense got a recess after every one of the prosecution's 54 witnesses," Foran said.

"That's the grossest statement I've ever heard in a courtroom," said Kunstler.

"I admonish you to stop shouting," said the judge. "You have been disrespectful in the past."

"Your honor has shouted too," said Kunstler.

"Put that in the record," said the judge to the court reporter. "Om" said Ginsberg from the witness stand.

The judge ordered him to step down and recessed the session.